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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/632,492	07/31/2003	Jeffrey A. Arndt	10/632492	4396
7590	01/09/2006			EXAMINER
Felix J. Sahlin 1480 Mississippi River Boulevard S. St. Paul, MN 55116-1853			OUELLETTE, JONATHAN P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3629	

DATE MAILED: 01/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/632,492	ARNDT ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jonathan Ouellette	3629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2005.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-43 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. The rejection of Claims 1-13, 37 and 39-42 under 35 U.S.C. 101 is withdrawn after further consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The rejection of Claims 34, 37, 38, and 42 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is withdrawn due to Applicant's amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 2, 9, 12, 14-24, 28-30, 34-36, 42 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shapiro et al. (US 6,714,944 B1).
5. As per independent Claim 1, Shapiro discloses a method for verification of an individual's identity comprising: a. entering identifying background information by the applicant (Fig.2, Registrant enters site and registers data); b. assigning a unique identifier to the applicant's

personal profile (Abstract); c. verifying the validity of applicant's the background information (Fig.2, Verification Process); d. sorting and categorizing the verified data for review by the applicant (Fig.5B, Master Verification Document created); e. matching the applicant's verified personal data with the applicant (Fig.5A-5B, create Master Verification Document; C7 L58-65), f. review of the verified data by the applicant for accuracy (Fig.6A, Registrant reviews MVD before dissemination); g. creating a personal profile by the applicant using the verified data (Fig.5A-5B, Master Verification document); h. posting applicant's personal profile in a database (Fig. 5B, MVD filed in master storage); i. issuance of an invitation by applicant to a third party to view applicant's personal profile (Abstract, registrant communicates access information to a third party).

6. As per Claim 9, Shapiro discloses wherein applicant's background information is verified by one or more third party sources (C1 L61-63, C2 L8-11, C6 L35-54).
7. As per Claim 12, Shapiro discloses wherein the applicant's verified identification data may be accessed on a restricted basis for the applicant to verify or challenge its accuracy (C9 L7-23, registrant can review the MVD before dissemination, but can not directly change the MVD)
8. As per Claim 14, Shapiro discloses wherein the applicant's does not have direct dynamic access to their personal profile but can only modify a separate data table joined to their data table by data query for output and display purposes by a unique member identifier (C8 L59-63, access through unique identifier and/or password; C9 L7-15, Fig.5A-6B user updates records by inputting new information, which is separately verified and added to the MVD).

9. As per Claim 15, Shapiro discloses wherein the applicant's invitation to view their respective personal profile is not sent from the applicant directly but from a third party automated e-mail processing system (C8 L57-67, C9 L1-31).
10. As per Claim 16, Shapiro discloses wherein the applicant's invitation to view their respective personal profile is viewable only through an email access link through a secure server. (C9 L24-31)
11. As per Claim 36, Shapiro discloses two non linked or connected data bases, one for input of identity verification data (Fig.5A-5B, registrant's file from storage) by applicant and one for creation and display of applicant's personal profile (Fig.5A-5B, completer Master Verification Document stored in master storage).
12. As per Claim 42 as understood by the examiner, Shapiro discloses wherein applicant's credit card is charged based on a membership level (C7 L22-30, service options and credit card payment information). (12)
13. As per **independent Claim 2**, Shapiro discloses a data processing system for verification of an individual's identification comprising: a. a computer for processing data (Fig.3); b. storage means for storing data on a storage system (Fig.2); c. first means for initializing the storage medium (Fig.2, Registration); d. second means for processing applicant's identification data (Fig.2, Verification process); e. third means for independently verifying the existence and accuracy of the applicant's identification data (Fig.2, Verification process; C6 L35-54); f. fourth means for sorting identification data into categories for applicant review (Fig.5A-5B, create Master Verification Document; C7 L58-65); g. fifth means for applicant to verify the accuracy the independent verification of applicant's identification data (Fig.6A, Registrant

reviews MVD before dissemination); h. sixth means for applicant to challenge all or part of results of independent verification of identification data (Fig.6A, Registrant reviews MVD before dissemination); i. seventh means for applicant to create a personal profile from applicant's verified identification data (Fig.5A-5B, Master Verification document); j. eighth means for assignment of a unique identifier for the applicant's profile (Abstract); k. ninth means for applicant to issue invitation(s) to third parties to view applicant's profile; l. means for third party to view applicant's personal profile (Abstract, registrant communicates access information to a third party).

14. As per Claims 17-24, Shapiro discloses wherein the computer processing means comprises a. means for inputting and storing the applicant's profile information (Fig.2, Registrant data-entry process). Furthermore the structure described by Shapiro would have the capability to enter/store a multitude of profile information types; wherein the types of entered/stored profile information would merely be considered intended use of the claimed system.
15. As per Claim 28, Shapiro discloses wherein the sixth means comprises a template for applicants to create a personal profile for viewing by a third party, said template allowing the applicant to include or exclude identity verification data from the personal profile (C8 L49-53 registrant notes what portions of information to display and to whom).
16. As per Claim 29, Shapiro discloses wherein the seventh means comprises a template for applicants to create a personal profile for viewing by a third party, said template allowing the applicant to include or exclude data concerning the applicant's employment (C7 L32-36, template; C8 L49-53, registrant notes what portions of information to display and to whom).

17. As per Claim 30, Shapiro discloses wherein the eighth means comprises an electronically generated sequence of numbers and letters (C7 L30-32, computer assigns a unique alpha-numeric number to the file; C7 47-49).

18. As per Claim 34, Shapiro does disclose a digitized photograph of the applicant as presented by the applicant (C9 L26-40).

19. As per Claim 35, Shapiro discloses wherein the computer processing means further comprises a means for inputting and processing the applicant's credit card information for payment for use of the system (C7 L24-36).

20. As per **independent Claim 43**, Shapiro discloses a computer-readable medium encoded with instructions that cause a data processing system to perform a method comprising the steps of:
a. entering identifying background information provided by the applicant (Fig.2, Registrant enters site and registers data); b. verifying the validity of applicant's the background information (Fig.2, Verification Process); c. sorting and categorizing the verified data for review by the applicant (Fig.5B, Master Verification Document created); d. transmitting the verified data to the applicant for accuracy (Fig.6A, Registrant reviews MVD before dissemination); e. creation of a personal profile by the applicant using the verified data (Fig.5A-5B, Master Verification document); f. assigning a unique identifier to the applicant's personal profile (Abstract); g. posting applicant's personal profile in a data base (Fig.5A-5B, Master Verification document); h. at applicants request, issuing invitation to third parties to view applicant's personal profile (Abstract, registrant communicates access information to a third party).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

21. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

22. Claims 3-8, 13, 17, 25, 26 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Shapiro.

23. As per Claims 3-8 and 17, Shapiro does not expressly show wherein the background information comprises the applicant's: name (preferred and legal), date of birth, sex, social security number, citizenship, acknowledgement of any criminal convictions.

24. However these differences are only found in the nonfunctional descriptive data and are not functionally involved in the steps recited. The background verification method/system would be performed regardless of the type of user background information was collected/verified. Thus, this descriptive data will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, *see In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

25. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have collected/verified a multitude of user background information to include: name (preferred and legal), date of birth, sex, social security number, citizenship, acknowledgement of any criminal convictions, because such data does not functionally relate

to the steps in the method claimed and because the subjective interpretation of the data does not patentably distinguish the claimed invention.

26. As per Claim 13, while Shapiro does disclose wherein the applicant's personal profile can be modified to display all or some of the certain data types (C8 L49-53, registrant notes what portions of information to display and to whom), Shapiro does not expressly show wherein the applicant's personal profile can be modified to display all or some of the following data: felony convictions, misdemeanor convictions, employment verification, credit score, sexual offender classification, gender, drivers license possession, address, city of residence, state of residence, marital status, legal name, comments.
27. However these differences are only found in the nonfunctional descriptive data and are not functionally involved in the steps recited. The background verification method/system would be performed regardless of the type of verified user background information was modified or displayed. Thus, this descriptive data will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, *see In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994).
28. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified/displayed a multitude of verified user background information to include: felony convictions, misdemeanor convictions, employment verification, credit score, sexual offender classification, gender, drivers license possession, address, city of residence, state of residence, marital status, legal name, comments, because such data does not functionally relate to the steps in the method claimed and because the subjective interpretation of the data does not patentably distinguish the claimed invention.

29. As per Claim 25, while Shapiro does disclose using an independent entity to verify the users information (C6 L35-54, C8 L15-40), Shapiro does not expressly show wherein the third means comprises an independent entity to verify the applicant's felony convictions, misdemeanor convictions, employment verification, credit score, sexual offender classification, gender, drivers license possession, address, city of residence, state of residence, marital status and legal name.

30. However these differences are only found in the nonfunctional descriptive data and are not functionally involved in the steps recited. The background verification method/system would be performed regardless of the type of user background information was verified by an independent entity. Thus, this descriptive data will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, *see In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

31. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the independent entity verify a multitude of user background information to include: applicant's felony convictions, misdemeanor convictions, employment verification, credit score, sexual offender classification, gender, drivers license possession, address, city of residence, state of residence, marital status and legal name, because such data does not functionally relate to the steps in the method claimed and because the subjective interpretation of the data does not patentably distinguish the claimed invention.

32. As per Claim 26, while Shapiro does disclose a database for storing/sorting data regarding applicant's verified information (Fig.2, C6 L51-54), Shapiro does not expressly show wherein the fourth means comprises a database for sorting data regarding applicant's credit

data, any criminal convictions, employment, gender, drivers license possession, verification of residence address and marital status.

33. However these differences are only found in the nonfunctional descriptive data and are not functionally involved in the steps recited. The background verification method/system would be performed regardless of the type of verified user background information stored. Thus, this descriptive data will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, *see In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994).
34. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have stored a multitude of verified user background information to include: applicant's credit data, any criminal convictions, employment, gender, drivers license possession, verification of residence address and marital status, because such data does not functionally relate to the steps in the method claimed and because the subjective interpretation of the data does not patentably distinguish the claimed invention.
35. As per Claim 37, while Shapiro does disclose the ability of the registrant to note what portions of information to display and to whom (C8 L49-53), Shapiro does not expressly show the notation "declined" as the response to any item which applicant chooses to exclude from their personal profile.
36. However these differences are only found in the nonfunctional descriptive data and are not functionally involved in the steps recited. The background verification method/system would be performed regardless of the type of notation used by the user to indicate any item which applicant chooses to exclude from their personal profile. Thus, this descriptive data will not

distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, *see In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

37. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the user to use a multitude of notations to indicate any item which applicant chooses to exclude from their personal profile, to include the notation "declined", because such data does not functionally relate to the steps in the method claimed and because the subjective interpretation of the data does not patentably distinguish the claimed invention.

38. Claims 10, 11, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shapiro et al. (US 6,714,944 B1) in view of Austin et al. (US 2004/0128148 A1).

39. As per Claim 10, while Shapiro does disclose receiving verification information from third-party sources (Shapiro C8 L19-29), Shapiro fails to expressly discloses wherein pertinent credit data is sorted into fields of "Good", "Fair" "Poor" and "Challenged" as defined by the financial credit scores obtained.

40. However, Austin discloses verifying user background information to include credit (credit score) information (Austin Fig.7, Para 0032); furthermore, official notice is given that credit scores were routinely categorized in grouping such as "Good", "Fair" "Poor" and "Challenged", based on the reported credit score.

41. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included wherein pertinent credit data is sorted into fields of "Good", "Fair" "Poor" and "Challenged" as defined by the financial credit scores obtained, as disclosed by Austin in the system disclosed by Shapiro, for the advantage of providing a

- method for verification of an individual's identity, with the ability to increase the effectiveness/customer service of the method by compiling and displaying verified information in a user friendly format.
42. As per Claim 11, Shapiro fails to expressly disclose wherein Felony and Misdemeanor data found during verification is reflected by a "positive hit" without regard to the specific details of the data.
43. However, Austin discloses verifying user background information to include criminal history information and displaying an indication of the data found for the user (Fig.7); furthermore the type of indication ("positive hit") would only be found in the nonfunctional descriptive data and would not functionally be involved in the steps recited.
44. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included wherein Felony and Misdemeanor data found during verification is reflected by a "positive hit" without regard to the specific details of the data, as disclosed by Austin in the system disclosed by Shapiro, for the advantage of providing a method for verification of an individual's identity, with the ability to increase the effectiveness/customer service of the method by compiling and displaying verified information in a user friendly format.
45. As per Claim 32, Shapiro fails to expressly disclose wherein the seventh means further comprises a digitized photograph submitted by the applicant.
46. However, Austin discloses verifying user background information and displaying a full user profile, to include a digitized photograph submitted by the applicant (Fig.5, Para 0029).

47. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included wherein the seventh means further comprises a digitized photograph submitted by the applicant, as disclosed by Austin in the system disclosed by Shapiro, for the advantage of providing a method for verification of an individual's identity, with the ability to increase the effectiveness/customer service of the method by compiling and displaying a multitude of profile information for the outside examination of the verified user.

48. Claims 33, and 39-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shapiro et al. (US 6,714,944 B1) in view of Rosen (US 2004/0186852 A1).

49. As per Claim 33, Shapiro discloses wherein the eighth means further comprises an automated email system operated on a server without direct access between the applicant and the third party/invitee (C8 L57-67, C9 L1-31).

50. However, Shapiro fails to expressly disclose a secure server.

51. Official notice is given that secure servers were well known and used at the time the invention was made, especially for web-commerce systems.

52. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included a secure server in the system disclosed by Shapiro, for the advantage of providing a method for verification of an individual's identity, with the ability to increase the effectiveness/customer service of the method by ensuring the security of the potentially private information provided by the user to be verified.

53. Furthermore, Shapiro fails to expressly disclose a time limit for which the applicant's profile may be viewed.

54. Rosen discloses placing limitations on verified profiles viewed by employers (third-party), to include a one-time use limitation (Para 0132).
55. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included a time limit for which the applicant's profile may be viewed, as disclosed by Rosen in the system disclosed by Shapiro, for the advantage of providing a method for verification of an individual's identity, with the ability to increase the effectiveness/efficiency of the method by maintaining strict guidelines (time and distribution) on the third-party use of the provided verified information.
56. As per Claim 39, Shapiro fails to expressly disclose a single access to applicant's personal profile by a third party.
57. Rosen discloses placing limitations on verified profiles viewed by employers (third-party), to include a one-time use limitation (Para 0132).
58. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included a single access to applicant's personal profile by a third party, as disclosed by Rosen in the system disclosed by Shapiro, for the advantage of providing a method for verification of an individual's identity, with the ability to increase the effectiveness/efficiency of the method by maintaining strict guidelines (time and distribution) on the third-party use of the provided verified information.
59. As per Claim 40, Shapiro fails to expressly disclose wherein applicant's identification information self-report is verified using a credit reporting service.
60. However, Rosen discloses wherein applicant's identification information self-report is verified using a credit reporting service (Para 0230).

61. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included wherein applicant's identification information self report is verified using a credit reporting service, as disclosed by Rosen in the system disclosed by Shapiro, for the advantage of providing a method for verification of an individual's identity, with the ability to increase the effectiveness of the method by verifying user information with information compiled at reputable sources.
62. As per Claim 41, Shapiro discloses wherein applicant's criminal history if any is verified using a criminal conviction database service.
63. However, Rosen discloses wherein applicant's criminal history if any is verified using a criminal conviction database service (Para 0230-0234).
64. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included wherein applicant's criminal history if any is verified using a criminal conviction database service, as disclosed by Rosen in the system disclosed by Shapiro, for the advantage of providing a method for verification of an individual's identity, with the ability to increase the effectiveness of the method by verifying user information with information compiled at reputable sources.
65. **Claims 27, 31 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shapiro.**
66. As per Claim 27, Shapiro discloses wherein the fifth means comprises a data link with access restricted to applicants allowing applicant to verify or challenge the accuracy of their identity verification data (C6 L21-34, Internet; C9 L7-23, registrant can review the MVD before dissemination).

67. However, Shapiro fails to expressly disclose a secure data link.
68. Official notice is given that secure data links were well known and used at the time the invention was made, especially for web-commerce systems.
69. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included a secure data link in the system disclosed by Shapiro, for the advantage of providing a method for verification of an individual's identity, with the ability to increase the effectiveness/customer service of the method by ensuring the security of the potentially private information provided by the user to be verified.
70. As per Claim 31, Shapiro discloses wherein the ninth means comprises an automated email system operated on a server without direct access for link between the applicant and the third party/invitee (C8 L57-67, C9 L1-31).
71. However, Shapiro fails to expressly disclose a secure server.
72. Official notice is given that secure servers were well known and used at the time the invention was made, especially for web-commerce systems.
73. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included a secure server in the system disclosed by Shapiro, for the advantage of providing a method for verification of an individual's identity, with the ability to increase the effectiveness/customer service of the method by ensuring the security of the potentially private information provided by the user to be verified.
74. As per Claim 38, Shapiro discloses wherein the applicant's verification or challenge to applicant's verified identification data is conducted via an Internet server link (C6 L21-34, Internet; C9 L7-23, registrant can review the MVD before dissemination).

75. However, Shapiro fails to expressly disclose a secure server link.
76. Official notice is given that secure server links were well known and used at the time the invention was made, especially for web-commerce systems.
77. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included a secure server link in the system disclosed by Shapiro, for the advantage of providing a method for verification of an individual's identity, with the ability to increase the effectiveness/customer service of the method by ensuring the security of the potentially private information provided by the user to be verified.

Response to Arguments

78. Applicant's arguments filed 10/31/2005, with respect to Claims 1-43 have been considered but are not persuasive. The rejection will remain as **FINAL**, based on the sited prior art.
79. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

80. The Applicant makes the argument that the prior art fails to disclose allowing the user to include or exclude identity verification information from the personal profile (dependent claims 28 and 29).
81. However, Shapiro discloses the ability of the user (registrant) to note what portions of information to display and to whom (C8 L49-53).
82. The Applicant's arguments regarding the 102(e) rejection of claims 33 and 37 are considered moot, as no such rejection was made by the Examiner.
83. The Applicant has made the argument that Claims 3-8, 13, 17, 25, 26, 34 and 37 contain function subject matter.
84. As per Claim 34, the Applicant's arguments are considered moot, in view of the new ground(s) of rejection, as necessitated by the Applicant's amendment.
85. As per Claims 3-8, 13, 17, 25, 26 and 37, the dependent claims contain only nonfunctional descriptive data and are not functionally involved in the steps recited. The background verification method/system would be performed regardless of the descriptive steps. Thus, this descriptive data will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, *see In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994).
86. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the descriptive data, because such data does not functionally relate to the substrate of the article of manufacture (independent method steps) and merely including various types of descriptive date, would have been obvious matter of design choice. *See In re Kuhle*, 526 F.2d 553, 555, 188 USPQ 7, 9 (CCPA 1975).

87. The Applicant makes the argument that the prior art fails to disclose providing third parties with limited access to verified applicant profile.
88. However, Rosen discloses limiting the access (Para 0132, single view – equivalent to a single block of time)
89. Finally, the Applicant has made the argument that the prior art fails to expressly disclose secure server, and that it would not have been obvious to include such a feature.
90. However, Official notice was taken on the previous office action, indicating that secure servers were well known and used at the time the invention was made, especially for web-commerce systems. Although, Shapiro did not expressly disclose the use of a secure server (as a matter of design choice), it still would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included a secure server in the system disclosed by Shapiro, for the advantage of providing a method for verification of an individual's identity, with the ability to increase the effectiveness/customer service of the method by ensuring the security of the potentially private information provided by the user to be verified.

Conclusion

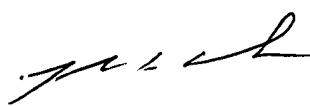
91. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan Ouellette whose telephone number is (571) 272-6807. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 8am - 5:00pm.
92. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone numbers for the organization

where this application or proceeding is assigned (703) 872-9306 for all official communications.

93. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-5484.

JO


December 29, 2005



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